

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 SSO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 SS-15
NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:BH
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
NEA:NVELIOTES
INR:HHAUNDERS (SUBS)
S/S-O:JTHYDEN
DOD/DSAA:LT.GEN.FISH
DOD/ISA/NESA:COL.SLATER
EUR:RVINE (SUBS)
PM:LGELB (SUBS)

-----047381 310332Z /72

O 310315Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 311120 TOSEC 130068

FROM SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN FIELD ARTILLERY PIECES

REF: SECTO 13009

1. QUOTED BELOW IN PARA THREE IS A STATUS REPORT PREPARED
BY DSAA DIRECTOR, GENERAL FISH, ON THE 155MM AND 8-INCH
SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS FOR JORDAN. FROM THIS REPORT, IT
SEEMS THAT DELIVERY OF THE 155MM HOWITZERS IS SOMEWHAT
BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED EARLIER, SINCE DELIVERIES WILL
BEGIN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF CY 1978. THERE IS A POSSI-

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BILITY OF BEGINNING DELIVERIES EVEN EARLIER IF WE SUBSTITUTE
SOME HOWITZERS NOW SCHEDULED TO GO TO ITALY, SPAIN OR
MOROCCO. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH LES GELB AND
DICK VINE, NEITHER OF WHOM FORESEES ANY PROBLEM IN DIPPING
INTO THE ITALIAN PROGRAM ON JORDAN'S BEHALF, IF YOU SO DESI-
RE. HOWEVER, WE DO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, COULD
WE AVOID IT, NOT TO DIP INTO EITHER THE MOROCCAN OR SPANISH

PROGRAMS.

2. AS FOR THE 8-INCH HOWITZERS, AT THIS STAGE IT DOES NOT LOOK AS THOUGH WE COULD ADVANCE DELIVERIES BEFORE CY 1979, BUT DOD HAS PROMISED TO TRY TO ADVANCE THE SECOND STAGE

DELIVERIES INTO CY 1980. BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT HELPFUL IN YOUR TALKS WITH HUSSEIN.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT FROM GENERAL FISH:

BEGIN QUOTE: WE HAVE REEXAMINED THE POSSIBILITY FOR EARLIER DELIVERY OF THE M1091AB (155 MM) AND M110A1 (EIGHT-INCH) SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS. WITH RESPECT TO THE M110A1, THE FIRST QUANTITY SCHEDULED TO COME FROM THE PRODUCTION LINE IS 22 (8 MAP, 14 FMS) FOR DELIVERY TO JORDAN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1979. THE PRODUCTION LINE MANUFACTURES M578 LIGHT RECOVERY VEHICLES AS WELL AS THE M110A1 HOWITZER (CHASSIS ARE THE SAME). PRODUCTION LINE IS ENCUMBERED WITH M578 PRODUCTION UNTIL THE DELIVERY OF ITEMS TO JORDAN. WITH RESPECT TO THE 16 M110A1'S SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1981, DOD IS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF EARLIER DELIVERY (IN CALENDAR YEAR 1980) AND WILL ADVISE.

WITH RESPECT TO THE M109A1B HOWITZER, DELIVERIES TO
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JORDAN START IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978 AND CONTINUE THROUGH THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1979. DELIVERIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978 ARE SCHEDULED TO ITALY, SPAIN AND MOROCCO. THE DOD HAS AGREED TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF DIVERTING DELIVERIES FROM ANY OF THESE THREE COUNTRIES SHOULD YOU CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE. END QUOTE.

4. YOU MIGHT WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE MOST SYMPATHETIC TO JORDAN'S DEFENSE NEEDS AND HAVE BEEN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCELERATED DELIVERIES OF THE SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS.

-- DELIVERY SCHEDULES FOR THE 155 MM HOWITZERS FOR JORDAN ARE BETTER THAN EXPECTED. THEY WILL BEGIN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1979. WE ARE URGENTLY EXAMINING WHETHER WE COULD DO EVEN BETTER BY DIVERTING FROM OTHER COUNTRY PROGRAMS, AND WILL LET YOU KNOW.

-- THE PRODUCTION LINE PROBLEMS FOR 8-INCH HOWITZERS AT THIS STAGE APPARENTLY WILL NOT PERMIT ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF THE INITIAL BATCH TO JORDAN. THE FIRST BATCH OF 22 HOWITZERS IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN CY 1979. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL BE TRYING TO ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF THE SECOND GROUP OF 16 HOWITZERS, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN 1981, SO AS TO PERMIT DELIVERY IN 1980. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, ARTILLERY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE311120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:BH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780003-0964
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaagl.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e3dd20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SECTO 13009
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 100527
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN FIELD ARTILLERY PIECES
TAGS: OVIP, MASS, US, JO, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e3dd20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009